
MONTGOMERY, ALA., April 30th, 1861.
 Editors Charleston Courier:
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 I saw this morning the model of a floating battery which I think far surpasses your famous work in every respect. The invention is a creation of Mr. Gamble, well known in Georgia as a very scientific gentleman. The model and explanation of it has met with so much favor at the war department that I am inclined to think it will be experimented upon in the Chesapeake Bay.

before Fortress Monroe. The following is an accurate description of the work, which I had partly promised to keep quiet, but supposing it would be published elsewhere I submit it. You will find it a very interesting description:

"GAMBLE'S ROTARY FLOATING BATTERY.

"This model is constructed on a scale of one-eighth of an inch to the foot. It is calculated to carry at least

thirty guns of heaviest metal, though at present pierced for only ten. The Battery will be constructed of iron, shot and bomb proof, the thickness of the iron and the size of the guns depending upon the locality in which it is to operate. For instance, in some shallow harbors, it is obvious that no large war ship, with heavy armament, can enter; but as these Batteries can carry the heaviest armament even in shallow waters, it is plain that they can destroy with impunity their lighter armed

adversaries before the latter can arrive in inductive range for their lighter guns. In such cases a great deduction may be made in the weight of the iron employed in their construction. By an inspection of the model, it will be seen that it is surrounded by a breastwork, or breakwater, also shot proof, rising but little above the water. This barrier serves at least the three-fold purpose of protection to the hull of the Battery as a provision against boarders from boats, and a preserver of

smooth water under the muzzles of the guns. When properly poised, the Battery will present an acute angle to the enemy's fire, causing the shot to pass harmlessly over or under.

"The magazine, in the centre, is furnished with a bomb-proof roof, the apex of which will serve to assist the support of a light floor, or roof, covering the whole space within the battery circle. This floor will not offer

resistance to heavy bombs falling upon it; but will permit them to fall through into the water beneath; at the same time it furnishes a parade for the garrison and a commodious deck for small armed men and even field pieces and mortars. On the centre of this floor is a circular tower, shot-proof, in which are to be posted the gunners, who are to discharge the guns which in rotation are brought to bear upon the target. This is proposed to be done by electricity, their position giving

their peculiar advantages for correct aim, free from the obscuration of smoke and having a full view of the horizon. A like protection for small-armed men from the fire of ship's tops can be constructed around the outer edge of this deck, from which an incessant fire of musketry could be maintained.

"Passing down through the centre of the magazine is a pivot, on which the whole Rotary Battery will turn while in action. If it be desirable to maintain the exact

position, this at the same time serves as an anchor, and will not interfere with the proper action of the Battery. By a simple contrivance, the Rotary can be made to raise or depress this pivot without the aid of machinery or manual labor. The magazine is rendered accessible to the batteries by two covered ways, having open gratings for floors, which will permit any waste powder to fall through into the water beneath and effectually cut

On any train leading to the magazine. The hull of the Rotary will be divided into water tight compartments, in which the propellers which are intended to move the Rotary will be placed, together with all stores, fuel, &c. The guns are designed to work in slides, similar to the movement of what is called the T head in high pressure engines, the guns having a vertical, but no lateral range. Directly over each gun is a small flag staff, by its color indicating the class of gun to which it is an index, viz:

"A red flag, say indicating a one hundred pounder.
 "A blue flag, say indicating and eighty pounder.
 "A yellow flag, say indicating a forty pounder.
 "A white flag, say indicating a thirty-two pounder.
 "These flags are so placed that the butt of the staff will rest on the muzzle of its gun, and will thus indicate to the gunner that the gun is loaded, and also its calibre. When its gun is discharged, it will by its recoil permit the flag staff to descend, thus removing it from the line

tion of the gunner until the piece is again in place and ready for action, when the flag is again placed, resting on its muzzle, indicating the character of the gun and its exact range. Each gun is furnished with a mantlet, worked by the gun itself, which will open or close its own porthole by its own action. Each Rotary is furnished with two or more propellers, so placed as to be out of the way of the guns, and protected from injury

from any external cause. These engines, working in parallel lines, will carry the Rotary from point to point, and, one of them being reversed, will give, when desired, the rotary movement when in action. These Rotaries being fire proof, will, beside the effect produced by their guns, be capable of acting as the most destructive fire-ships. Being laid aboard of any vessel, they will be furnished with all appliances for throwing aboard combustible and other destructive missiles.

"The Rotary can be furnished with movable keels or centre-boards, so as to enable her to cross currents, if desired, without making lea-way. When desirable, the heavy guns can be withdrawn, without removal from the Rotary, and lighter guns substituted, making the armament homogenous. In the present model, the heavy guns are mounted in the angles, say three 100-pounders and three 80-pounders. Being of the simplest possible construction, the whole can be made by ma-

chinery, prising the iron plates into the required shape and punching them for riveting, thus making their construction a cheap one. They can be built at any point most convenient and economical, and forwarded and put together wherever they may be required. In large harbors, two or more of these Rotaries, of any required size, could, by their powers of locomotion, take up such positions for mutual defence as to render them absolutely invulnerable against the chances of attacking ships or an in-

ly irresistible, subjecting every attacking ship to all incessant raking fire. The same powers would enable them to occupy any portion of said harbor or pursue and ferret out any intruding ship. It would be impossible for any land force to keep possession of any harbor thus fortified, as might be the case if land fortifications were depended upon for its safety. The latter might fall into the hands of an investing foe; the former, if too hard pressed, would simply change its position.

"It is assumed that five minutes be allowed for reloading each gun. The Rotary, revolving at this rate, will give one revolution every five minutes, and a gun, which will be brought to bear upon the target every ten seconds, and 360 discharges per hour, if necessary.

"Besides apparatus for throwing combustibles, one for throwing scalding water could be easily attached to this structure as an agent in resisting attempts at boarding, or even to sweep the decks of any vessel against

THE HAVANA PRESS ON THE CRISIS.—The Havana papers publish in detail the news from the United States and comment voluminously upon it. The *Prensa* says:

The confusion which must reign in the United States with the calling out of the militia and the preparations for war, can scarcely be conceived. The general dissatisfaction, however, manifests itself in a thousand different

ent ways; because the people well understood that the result of all these sacrifices will be that the drama will end where it ought to have begun, with the recognition of the independence and nationality of the two sections into which the old republic is already divided, and the conclusion of treaties of amity and commerce. But in the meantime, disaster is to succeed disaster without the possibility of remedy. What blindness on the part of the Republican party and President Lincoln!

RALEIGH PERCUSSION CAP FACTORY.—Owing to the skill of Professor Emmons in making the composition, and the mechanical dexterity of Mr. Charles Kuester in using it for the requisite purpose, we shall have as much of that article so essential in war, percussion caps, as we may need. We have seen a specimen of the caps, and they fully answer the end in view. Prof. Emmons has also suggested the mode of manufacturing any quantity of the right sort of powder. This is a beginning of enterprise by Southern men. We have seen the apparatus and the machinery which he has

A gentleman from Canada has just arrived in our city and enrolled himself in one of our military corps. He declares the feeling in Canada to be grossly misrepresented in the Northern papers. The continuity of fugitive

slaves does not promote the cause of ruffianly Abolitionism.—*Charleston Courier.*

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